

Appln No.: 09/654,373

Amendment Dated: December 29, 2003

Reply to Office Action of July 28, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A composition comprising a population of oligodeoxynucleotide-containing lipid vesicles in an aqueous carrier, at least a portion of the lipid vesicles within said population being small multilamellar vesicles, wherein the small multilamellar vesicles comprise:
 - (a) a lipid component comprising 20-30 mol % of an ionizable amino lipid, a steric barrier lipid and additional lipid components selected from among neutral lipids and sterols; and
 - (b) oligodeoxynucleotides contained in the lumen or interlamellar spaces of the small multilamellar vesicles, wherein the ionizable lipid is selected such that raising the pH surrounding the small multilamellar vesicles to a pH of around 7.5 results in the release are substantially free of external, non-encapsulated oligodeoxynucleotides from the vesicles.
2. (original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide and the lipid component are present in a weight/weight ratio of from 0.025 to 0.25.
3. (original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide and the lipid component are present in a weight/weight ratio of from 0.15 to 0.25.
4. (original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide and the lipid component are present in a weight/weight ratio of from 0.015 to 0.20.
5. (original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the ionizable amino lipid is DODAP.
6. (original) The composition according to claim 2, wherein the steric barrier lipid is PEG-CerC₁₄.
7. (original) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the lipid component comprises a sterol, and the sterol is cholesterol.
8. (original) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the lipid

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component comprises a neutral lipid selected from among DOPE, DSPC, POPC and, SM.

9. (original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the lipid component comprises DSPC, CHOL, DODAP and PEG-CerC₁₄ in a molar ratio of 25:45:20:10.

10-22. (canceled)

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